



State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Mr. Craig Lawry
Comfort Inn
1390 Lafayette Rd
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

LETTER OF DEFICIENCY
WMB PBF 02-74
November 8, 2002

Dear Mr. Lawry

The Department of Environmental Services, Water Division ("DES") is required by RSA 485-A:26 to operate a program to ensure the health and safety of the public when using public bathing facilities such as pools and spas. To implement this program, DES has adopted administrative rules Env-Ws 1101-1105 to specify the design, operation, and maintenance requirements for public bathing facilities. DES reviews applications for new public bathing facilities and also inspects and tests the water in existing public bathing facilities to ensure that applicable requirements are being met.

On October 28, 2002, DES inspected the following public bathing facilities at the Comfort Inn, in Portsmouth, NH: the indoor pool ("Pool") and spa ("Spa"). During this inspection, the following deficiencies were noted:

A recommendation to close and super chlorinate the Pool was issued on October 28, 2002. The inspection on October 28, 2002 revealed that the Pool was in violation of Env-Ws 1103.14 and unsafe for public use. The following bacterial violations were observed in the Pool water:

- a Pursuant to Env-Ws 1103.14(a)(1) the maximum allowable concentration of total coliform bacteria and *Escherichia coli* in public bathing facility water is zero counts per one hundred milliliters (0CTS/100mL). The Pool water contained 1 CTS/100mL of total coliform bacteria.
- b Pursuant to Env-Ws 1103.14(a)(2) the maximum allowable Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) in public bathing facility water is five hundred colony-forming units per one milliliter (500 cfu/mL). The Pool water contained greater than 50,000 cfu/mL.
- c The maximum allowable concentration of non-coliform bacteria in public bathing facility water is two hundred counts per one hundred milliliters (200 CTS/100mL). The Pool water contained greater than 200 CTS/100mL.

- 2 Env-Ws 1103.15(c) requires a bromine concentration between 2.0 mg/L and 4.0 mg/L in public pool water. The bromine concentration of the Pool water was less than 0.1 mg/L on October 28, 2002.

Env-Ws 1104.01 requires the operator to test public bathing facility water for disinfectant residual, pH, and temperature prior to use of a public bathing facility and every 4 hours during operation, to record test results on a dated daily log sheet, and to maintain operational records for the previous twelve months and make these records available to DES and patrons of the public bathing facility upon request. The written records were not up to date at the time of the inspection relative to the required testing of the Pool and Spa water. The Pool and Spa water had not been tested since October 24, 2002.

4. Pursuant to Env-Ws 1104.03(b), the operator shall be responsible for posting conspicuously displayed signs informing patrons of the DES rules relative to patron responsibilities (enclosed copy) and any other safety rules developed by the bathing facility management. Complete patron rules were not posted at the Pool at the time of the inspection.

A report outlining how compliance will be achieved with the cited deficiencies should be submitted to DES within 30 calendar days from receipt of this letter. The report should include the following:

A copy of two weeks of water quality test results for all facilities (please do not send originals).

A timetable of when complete patron rules will be posted


DES personnel will conduct another inspection at a later date to determine whether you have come into, and are maintaining, full compliance with RSA 485-A:26 and Env-Ws 1101-1105. After a violation of Env-Ws 1103.14, the facility will be required to pass two inspections in the following months. In the event

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that compliance is not achieved, DES may take further action, including seeking an administrative fine up to \$2,000 for each offense or referring the case to the NH Attorney General's Office for judicial action.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. Please contact Amy Wilson at (603) 271-7108 if you have any questions regarding this letter. Copies of Env-Ws 1101-1105 are available through the DES Public Information Center at (603) 271-2975 or via the Internet at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/pools/env1100.pdf>.

Sincerely,


COPY
Jody Connor
Limnology Center Director

Enclosure
Certified Mail #

cc: ✓ Mark Harbaugh, Enforcement Attorney, DES
Amy Wilson, Public Bathing Facility Coordinator, DES
Odyssias Athanasiou, Health Officer, City of Portsmouth

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